

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/82

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT/ HILLEX6 REPORT TO THE DPC

REF: A. USNATO 2340

B. STATE 90808

C. USNATO 3041

SUMMARY. THE DRAFT REPORT ON HILEX-6 BY THE CONCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE (COEC) PROVIDES A COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THE EXERCISE BUT DOES NOT, AS YET, HAVE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTIONS. THE IS WILL DRAFT THESE ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE JULY 1 COEC MEETING. MISSION PROPOSES REDRAFTING OF ONE PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT, AND THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTIONS CALL FOR THE FORMALIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM AND FOR URGENT REVISION OF THE ALERT SYSTEM ITSELF. IN ADDITION, MISSION ASKS WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN TO DECLARATION OF ALERT MEASURES

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AS DISCUSSED IN THE DRAFT REPORT. ACTION REQUESTED:
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY JUNE 26. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS REVIEWED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF DRAFT

REPORT TO THE DPC ON EXERCISE HILEX-6 (AC/237-WP/90, DATED MAY 21, 1974, POUCHED). THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTIONS AS YET, AS THE IS FEELS THAT COEC DISCUSSION WILL BE REQUIRED TO DISTILL THE WIDE RANGE OF NATIONAL INPUTS RECEIVED. THE DRAFT WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE JULY 1 COEC MEETING.

2. THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT DOES INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF US COMMENTS AS PROVIDED BY REFS A AND B, AS WELL AS A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE EXERCISE. HOWEVER, MISSION FEELS THAT THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTIONS SHOULD ATTACH URGENCY TO THE REVISION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM. AS INDICATED BY REF C, THE IMS HAS UNDERTAKEN WORK TO SIMPLIFY THE ALERT SYSTEM BUT DOES NOT EXPECT REVISIONS TO BE READY FOR EVALUATION UNITL HILEX-7 IN 1976. A MORE RESPONSIVE ALERT SYSTEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT NO-COST CONVENTIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENT AND GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY.

3. THE SECTION OF THE DRAFTREPORT WHICH DISCUSSES THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM REFERS, IN PARA 44, TO THE ROLE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM. SUBPARA 44C SUGGESTS THAT "NATIONAL POSITIONS ON ALERT AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS MIGHT BE FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO AN "ALERT CELL", COMPOSED OF EXPERIENCED STAFFS AT THE NATO HEADQUARTERS". MISSION FEELS THAT, IF SUBPARAS A AND B, WHICH SUGGEST FORMALIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALERT SYSTEM AND SIMPLIFYING THE ALERT SYSTEM ITSELF, WERE IMPLEMENTED THEN AN ALERT CELL WOULD BE UNNECESSARY. PARA 44 SHOULD BE REDRAFTED ACCORDINGLY.

4. PARA 47 OF THE DRAFT DISCUSSES INTERPRETATION OF ALERT SYSTEM CATEGORIES. MISSION'S VIEW IS THAT BY PLACING A MEASURE IN CATEGORY I, NATIONAL AUTHRORITIES ACCEPT THE OBLIGATION TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURE WHEN APPROVED BY THE DPC. HOWEVER, MISSION BELIEVES THAT A DIFFERENT SITUATION EXISTS WHEN THE MNC DECLARES A MEASURE WITHOUT REFERRAL TO THE DPC, FOR WHICH PROVISION IS MADE UNDER EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES.

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IN THIS CASE, OUR VIEW IS THAT NATIONS ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO IMPLEMENT CATEGORY I MEASURES BUT, INSTEAD, ACCEPT THE MNC'S DECLARATION AS A REQUEST FOR NATIONAL APPROVAL AND THEN, IF GRANTED, IMPLEMENTATION. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THIS INTERPRETATION.

5. AT THE JULY 1 COEC MEETING, MISSION PROPOSES TO ASK THAT THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION OF THE REPORT CALL FOR (1) THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM TO BE REVISED ON AN URGENT BASIS; (2) THE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OFTHE NATO ALERT SYSTEM TO BE FORMALIZED; AND (3) PARA 44 OF THE TEXT TO BE REDRAFTED AS DISCUSSED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY JUNE 26.

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